

# Four-Year Plan

*Freshman - Minimum Credit Requirement = 13*

*Typical Credits = 15*

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
Theology	1	Theology	1
English	1	English	1
Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1
Science	1	Science	1
Physical Education	.5	Physical Education	.5
Health OR Fine Art	1	Health OR Fine Art	1
World Language	1	World Language	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
<b>Total credits per semester</b>	<b>6.5 to 7.5</b>	<b>Total credits per semester</b>	<b>6.5 to 7.5</b>

*Sophomore - Minimum Credit Requirement = 12.5 Typical Credits = 14.5*

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
Theology	1	Theology	1
English	1	English	1
Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1
Science	1	Science	1
Wellness	.25	Wellness	.25
Social Studies	1	Social Studies	1
World Language	1	World Language	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
<b>Total credits per semester</b>	<b>6.25 to 7.25</b>	<b>Total credits per semester</b>	<b>6.25 to 7.25</b>

*Junior – Minimum Credit Requirement = 13*

*Typical Credits = 15*

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
Theology	1	Theology	1
English	1	English	1
Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1
Science	1	Science	1
Wellness	.25	Wellness	.25
Social Studies	1	Social Studies	1
Elective	1	Guidance: Career College Planning	.5
Elective	1	Elective	1
		Elective	1
<b>Total credits per semester</b>	<b>6.25 to 7.25</b>	<b>Total credits per semester</b>	<b>6.75 to 7.75</b>

*Senior – Minimum Credit Requirement = 12.5*

*Typical Credits = 14.5*

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
Theology	1	Theology	1
English	1	English	1
Social Studies	1	Social Studies	1
Wellness	.25	Wellness	.25
Elective	1	Elective	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
<b>Total credits per semester</b>	<b>6.25 to 7.25</b>	<b>Total credits per semester</b>	<b>6.25 to 7.25</b>

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# Policies and Procedures

## BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

This Program of Studies has been designed to provide information for students and parents as they make informed decisions regarding course selection during their years at Benilde-St. Margaret's. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their course selections with their counselors, teachers, and parents. The high school experience is intended to be a four-year process in which students complete an extensive curriculum in preparation for post-secondary studies. Benilde-St. Margaret's offers a variety of elective courses that enhance a college preparatory curriculum. With this philosophy in mind, we will not allow students to complete their studies after the first semester of senior year.

The following is a summary of the courses that are required for graduation. One credit equals one semester of satisfactory completion of coursework, with the exception of Physical Education 9, Wellness 10, Wellness 11, Wellness 12 and Career College Planning.

English:	8 credits	Theology	8 credits
Fine Arts:	2 credits	Science	6 credits
Guidance	0.5 credits	Social Studies	6 credits
Health	1 credit	Wellness/PE	2.5 credits
Mathematics:	6 credits	World Language	4 credits
Electives	7 credits	<b>Total credits</b>	<b>51</b>

The courses listed in this Program of Studies will not necessarily be the same as the final courses offered during the school year. The number of students registered for a course, scheduling priorities and personnel will determine final course offerings. Counselors are available to students and parents throughout the course selection process.

## COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Colleges have a wide range of admission requirements. For specific requirements, students should contact the admissions office at the colleges or universities they are interested in attending. Students planning to attend college should have the following courses:

English	4 years	Social Studies	3 years
Math	3-4 years	Science	3-4 years
World Language	2-4 years		

The principle factors colleges consider in making admission decisions include the following:

1. Rigor of curriculum.
2. High school GPA (grade point average).
3. ACT and/or SAT test scores.

Highly selective colleges are interested in the pattern of high school courses taken by their applicants. Students interested in these schools should take the most rigorous courses available and should take all the science, math, English, social studies, and world language available.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses at BSM are first-year-college equivalent courses, approved by the College Board. They are designed to assist in preparation for the AP exams held annually in May. With enrollment in an AP course comes the expectation the student will take the exam in May. Students may earn college credit if their scores qualify.

# Policies and Procedures

## NCAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to participate in inter-collegiate athletics on a Division I or Division II level must abide by NCAA guidelines. Students must register and be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA selects courses from English, Math, Social Studies, Science and World Language to use in their core course guideline. Students should be aware some courses offered at Benilde-St. Margaret's School do not meet NCAA core course guidelines. Following is a list of courses offered at BSM that are **not approved** by the NCAA:

### **Not Approved**

20 <sup>th</sup> Century Drama		SLIP
Advanced Film Studies	English Composition	Sports Writing
Applied Chemistry	Film Studies	Video Journalism
Algebra Concepts	Geometry Concepts	
Algebra Plus	Intermediate Algebra	
Biology Concepts	Physical Science Concepts	

For additional information about DI or DII course, grade and test score requirements please go to the NCAA website: [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). Select: "enter here">"resources">"US Students">"Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet"

## AUDITING A CLASS

Sometimes a student may need to take a course for review or to strengthen his/her skills in order to progress through the sequence in an academic area. This can be done through auditing a class. Although a student receives a grade that is reflected on his/her permanent record, he/she does not receive credit for the audited class. The grade is not computed into a student's cumulative grade point average. The student should make arrangements to audit a class by contacting his/her counselor.

## BSM HOUR

Each student will be scheduled for a BSM (**B**ody, **S**pirit, **M**ind) Hour during the regular school day for both semesters. During the BSM Hour all students will earn their Physical Education/Wellness credit. Physical Education meets two days per week for freshmen. For sophomores, juniors, and seniors, Wellness meets approximately one day a week. Students will also be required to attend sessions with their academic counselor during their BSM hour throughout the school year. In addition, students will have access to resource centers in various disciplines (Math and Writing) and have expanded opportunities for peer tutoring, music sectionals, college and career planning, fitness activities, technology assistance, meetings with counselors or the campus minister and time for individual and group work. The BSM Hour is an integral part of the academic mission of the school and is not optional.

# Policies and Procedures

## COURSE CHANGE POLICY

Students register for courses in the spring of each year, and it is important for students to select courses carefully. The BSM Program of Studies contains a listing of all courses offered, and prerequisite information is noted if appropriate. Course requests are carefully reviewed by each academic department after semester two grades have been posted. Students who do not meet the necessary course prerequisite will be placed in the appropriate level or may be asked to make an alternate course choice. Administration will place a student in a course necessary to fulfill graduation requirements if an alternate selection is not chosen. The administration reserves the right to cancel any course with insufficient numbers or where changes in personnel are required.

### ***Changes prior to the start of school:***

In late summer students are required to attend one of the two Round-up days, during which they will review their preliminary schedule and may make adjustments during this period. All changes are subject to class space availability.

### ***After the start of school:***

Based on the recommendation of your guidance counselor and appropriate department chair, a course change may be approved after the start of the school year, taking into account the following guidelines:

- All changes must be made by the date set by administration, usually the end of the first week of school.
- A change request form must be completed.
- Teacher and hour preference are not considered valid reasons for a schedule change.
- All changes are subject to available class space.
- All change requests must be made with the assigned guidance counselor.

### ***Level Changes***

Students are placed in the course level most appropriate to their academic ability. Each department allows a four-week period at the beginning of first semester to confirm that a student is in the most appropriate course level. In some cases, a level change adjustment may become necessary to insure the best possible academic experience for a student.

Level changes may be initiated by the student or teacher. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor of the course if they feel they need a level change. The teacher will speak with the student's academic counselor, their department chair and a parent. If a change is warranted, the department chair will confirm the change with the academic counselor. Every effort is made not to disrupt the entire student schedule; however, it may be necessary to adjust one or more additional courses to accommodate a level change.

## HONORS COURSES

Honors courses are designed to challenge our most capable and motivated students by providing them with clearly stated expectations that specify the rigorous nature of the curriculum. Expectations may include the following criteria:

1. Clearly defined, measurable prerequisites for placement in the honors level course.
2. Material that is covered more extensively or at an accelerated pace.
3. Course activities and assessments that require students to demonstrate advanced skills in critical thinking, analysis, interpretation, and synthesis.
4. Course requirements may include completion of a significant project, presentation, or research paper.

# Policies and Procedures

## **POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS (PSEO)**

Students wishing to take college courses while in high school may want to consider PSEO. Juniors and seniors are allowed to apply for PSEO part time. Several guidelines and requirements have been set for BSM students to participate in this program. Detailed information regarding BSM's PSEO policy can be obtained from the student's guidance counselor.

## **SHORTAGE OF CREDITS**

Students are required to be making satisfactory progress toward graduation in order to be allowed to continue enrollment at Benilde-St. Margaret's School.

If a student fails a course and is subsequently short the required number of credits toward graduation, it is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents to make arrangements to make up the failed course and the loss of credit. Credit may be recovered by enrolling in an approved course offered at BSM, a local high school, community college summer or evening program, or an online course. The course must be approved by the appropriate BSM department head prior to enrollment.

## **STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM**

Students choosing to spend one or more semesters studying abroad will need to see their counselor to discuss arrangements. Issues concerning transfer of grades, and credits earned through studying abroad will be discussed. Prior to leaving, the student must have written consent from the principal. Students should be aware Benilde-St. Margaret's School graduation requirements will not be waived and will need to be completed in order for the student to graduate.

## **WITHDRAWALS FROM A COURSE**

### ***Withdraw Procedure***

After approved schedule changes have been made, withdrawals from a course are strongly discouraged.

A student may withdraw from a course during the first six weeks of the semester if consent is obtained from the student's parent/guardian, his/her counselor, and the teacher of the course. If a student withdraws from a course within the six-week period, a "W" is placed on the transcript. After the first six weeks of the semester, no withdrawals will be permitted except for serious and prolonged illness or other unavoidable emergencies. Students who withdraw from a class after the first six weeks of the semester will receive a "WF" on their permanent record.

### ***Withdrawal from a Yearlong Course***

When enrolling in a yearlong course, students should expect to remain in the course for both semesters. When applying to colleges, students are required to list their course of studies. A college will look for successful completion of a yearlong course. A grade issued for only one semester of a yearlong course may be a red flag to a college admissions office. Any student wishing to withdraw from a yearlong course must receive permission from the instructor of the course.

# Business

## **Accounting (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

This course will provide a realistic approach to learning integrated accounting principles and methods. Basic accounting procedures including business transactions, financial statements, accounting systems and procedures, and banking services will be covered. This course provides an understanding of principles, concepts, and procedures of accounting that every student should have for personal and business use.

## **Business Management (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors, and seniors.

Did you ever wonder what it takes to operate and manage your own business? Are you the next Bill Gates or Oprah Winfrey? This course gives students the knowledge to create a business while exploring various business concepts. The class includes units on entrepreneurship, product development, finance, marketing, ethics, and strategic and operations management. The course will culminate with students developing and presenting a business plan on a business concept of their choosing.

## **Business and Personal Law (S1)**

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Classes will be grouped by grade level.

Are you curious about the law and how it affects you? This course will give students a solid foundation in business and personal law topics that affect them on a daily basis. In addition, the course will provide a thorough look at individual rights while studying critical areas of the Bill of Rights. Students will be challenged to think analytically as they study classic legal cases as well as recently decided cases. The course will include the following topics: sources and kinds of law, the court system, ethics, contracts, law of sales, consumer law, family law, and wills and trusts. Additional topics may be added as time permits.

## **Personal Financial Management (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

Do you plan to live on your own someday? Apply for a credit card or a car loan? Set up a savings and checking account? Financial literacy among teens has been recognized as a necessity to assure financial success. Personal Financial Management helps students become financially literate by gaining knowledge in the areas of banking services, using credit wisely, planning savings and investments, selecting appropriate insurance coverage, buying or leasing a first car, and developing techniques for personal money management.

## **Principles of Investing (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course will cover the basic principles of investing from the perspective of a professional portfolio manager. Course content includes valuation models, risk assessment, analysis of financial securities, portfolio theory and maintenance, and the time value of money. Students will have the opportunity to manage a live six-figure stock and bond portfolio that is part of the BSM endowment fund. Outside speakers and visits to local investment firms will contribute to the classroom learning experience.

## **Sports and Entertainment Marketing (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

MTV, the Minnesota Gophers, the Vikings, Disney World, movies, stadiums, salary caps, the Emmy's, NCAA, and endorsements. If these topics appeal to you, then you will like Sports and Entertainment Marketing. Sports and Entertainment Marketing will take students on a step-by-step journey through the world of marketing as it pertains to the sports and entertainment industry. Fans and companies spend billions of dollars each year on sports. The entertainment industry is one of the largest exports of the United States. Some of the areas of discussion will be marketing products and services through sports and entertainment, public relations, promotions, legal issues, and marketing plans. Students will produce an entertainment or sporting related project incorporating the knowledge and skills gained in the course.

# English

## *Freshman*

***Enrollment in a yearlong English course is required. Placement is based on test scores and teacher recommendation. Enrollment in English Composition is concurrent with English 9.***

### **English 9 (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, required.

The goals of English 9 are to help the student grow in appreciation of literature, develop critical thinking skills, express him/herself in an articulate manner both orally and in writing, and to effect a better command of the English language. Writing skills, with a review of the fundamentals of grammar, are stressed with emphasis on paragraph structure and the five-paragraph essay format. Short stories, plays, essays, and novels are read and studied. A vocabulary program is also part of the curriculum. Students should anticipate a required reading over the summer.

### **English Composition (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen.

*Enrollment is based on the Explore test results and/or teacher recommendation. Concurrent with English 9.*

This course seeks to improve reading and writing skills for students who have demonstrated difficulty in these areas. The aim of this class is to help those students with particular needs in language skills become more confident, so that they will be better equipped to deal with the demands of English 9 and beyond. The structure of this year long course, paired with English 9, promotes individualized instruction and deeper understanding in all areas of English Language Arts, particularly with writing and reading comprehension. This paired course will cover the reading and writing skills required in English 9, and will allow for deeper instruction in these skills. Text selection follows the core curriculum of English 9, and students have the opportunity to read the other texts during silent sustained reading, which occurs every day. *This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

### **Honors English 9 (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen.

*Prerequisite: Score in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in the English and Reading sections of the EXPLORE test.*

This course is for students who possess superior language arts skills and have the desire to learn at an intense and accelerated pace. Students will examine the principal literary genres in a varied selection of approximately 15 texts, ranging from Greek drama to contemporary novels. The focus of the class will be critical analysis of the literature through discussion and writing. A vocabulary program is also included in the curriculum. Students should anticipate required reading over the summer.

## *Sophomore*

***Enrollment in a yearlong English 10 course is required. In addition, these elective options (listed under "Senior") are available to sophomores: Creative Writing, Debate, Eco-Writing, Journalistic Writing, Mythology, Shakespeare, Twentieth Century Drama, and Video Journalism.***

### **English 10 (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, required.

The English 10 reading program explores a variety of literary genres, the study of which will develop and advance those critical and interpretative reading skills introduced in English 9. The first semester focuses on literature covering six novels and/or plays. The composition portion of this course reviews paragraph development and multi-paragraph essays, including an emphasis on research skills. Included in the second semester are a research unit and a speech unit in which students will gain experience in organizing and delivering formal and informal oral presentations. A vocabulary program is also part of the curriculum. Students should anticipate a required reading over the summer.

### **Honors English 10 (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores.

*Prerequisite: Honors English 9 or English 9 with a grade of "B" or above in both semesters of Honors English 9 OR an "A" in both semesters of English 9 in addition to the English department placement test score.*

This course is intended for students who demonstrate superior language arts skills and have the desire to learn at an accelerated pace. Students read approximately 10 classic and contemporary novels and plays from Greek, European, and American literature and selected works of poetry. The intensive writing program includes multi-paragraph essays of various forms. Also included in the course are a research project and a speech unit in which students gain experience in organizing and delivering formal and informal oral presentations. A vocabulary program is also part of the curriculum. Students should anticipate required reading over the summer.



# English

## *Junior*

*Juniors are required to take one of the following options:*

*Option 1: American Literature and Advanced Composition-one each semester*

*Option 2: Advanced Composition (S1) and American Studies (S2)*

*Option 3: AP Language and Composition- for the full year*

*In addition, with the two exceptions of AP English Literature and Composition, and Non-Fiction Writing, juniors may choose to enroll in any English electives listed under “Senior.”*

### **Advanced Composition (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit-open to juniors.

This course prepares students for college writing assignments. With an emphasis on both structure and style, this course focuses on fundamental writing skills. Students will gain familiarity with and feel confident using different forms of writing, including argumentation, critical analysis, narration, description, and research writing. Students will master the basics of grammar, mechanics, and usage; in addition, they will develop their own voices as writers and learn how to make the structure and form of their writing match its content.

*Students enrolled in Advanced Composition first semester must complete the required summer American Literature reading assignment.*

### **American Literature (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors.

The course focuses on developing a foundation in the American Literature canon while examining American culture as seen through novels, poetry, history, and art. Students should anticipate required reading over the summer.

### **American Studies/English (S2)**

One semester, two credits, open to juniors.

*Prerequisite: In addition to a grade of “B” or higher in both sophomore and first quarter junior year English and Social Studies classes, students must enroll in first semester Advanced Composition. Semester two students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social. This course fulfills the second semester American Literature English requirement.*

This course blends US historical events and themes in American literature to provide students with a comprehensive social, political, economic, and literary history. Five time periods each reflecting different epochs will be team taught: Great Depression, World War 2, Civil Rights, Cold War Conflict, and Challenges of Modern American Society. Having both literary and historical figures illuminating the human experience, American Studies fosters a deeper understanding of the principles, problems and issues basic to the establishment of our country. This understanding is essential for students to fully appreciate the complexities of history as it unfolds in modern times. Students enrolled in this course will meet two consecutive class periods.

### **AP Language and Composition (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors.

*Prerequisite: English 10 with a grade of “A” in both semesters OR Honors English 10 with a grade of “B” or higher in both semesters.*

*In addition, prospective students must take the department placement test to determine their readiness for this course.*

This accelerated writing course is taken in lieu of Advanced Composition and American Literature and is designed for those students who possess advanced writing skills. It is designed to further challenge those students as writers and to prepare them for more complex writing situations. Students will be required to complete a major writing project along with a variety of formal, informal, and in-class essays. In addition, students will be required to read several texts over the course of the year, focusing on American culture and rhetoric in fiction and nonfiction pieces. This is a reading- and writing- intensive course. **NOTE:** This course fulfills both the junior Advanced Composition and American Literature requirements.

# English

## *Senior*

*Enrollment in two English electives is required. One elective per semester.*

### **AP English Literature and Composition (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: A grade of "A" in both junior year English courses and/or "B" or higher in AP Language and Composition.*

This is an intense, college-level course in the reading and critical analysis of literature with a heavy emphasis on formal expository composition. A range of literature representative of different genres and historical periods will be read, including approximately 10 novels, a dozen short stories, four to five plays, and a wide selection of poetry. This yearlong course is a preparation for the AP Literature exam that is given in mid-May. Thus, it is expected that students taking this course will also take the AP Literature exam. Students should anticipate required reading over the summer.

### **Advanced Film (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Film Studies*

Advanced Film is for students who wish to continue their study of film beyond the Film Studies course. Students will analyze screenplays, write original screenplays, and study narrative structure in film. This course combines further analysis of film with more opportunities for digital filmmaking. Students will make a variety of short films (documentaries, narrative, and experimental).

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

### **Creative Writing (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

This course is for those students who love to write and who want to develop their craft. The class will expose students to a variety of forms of the written word in order to cultivate creativity and enhance students' forms of expression. Stories, plays, scripts, and poetry will be used as both examples and tools in this class, which offers students the opportunity to broaden their creative horizons, develop their own voices, refine their individual techniques, and share their writing in the classroom and beyond.

### **Debate (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Students in this course will learn effective argumentation and the principles of debate. They will study valid persuasion techniques as a defense against irrational argument and use these techniques to influence others. Students will be involved in researching topics, learning debate techniques and terms, and improving speaking skills. Many types of debate will be covered in the class. No previous experience in debate is necessary, and students may enroll in the course without being on the school's debate team.

*Students who have experience in at least one season on a debate team may not enroll in the Debate course.*

### **Film Studies (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

This course is for students who are genuinely interested in film as a contemporary means of communication and art. The course will cover a history of film along with various genres from classic to contemporary. Students will be expected to write often, putting into practice critical thinking skills as they respond to various films. Students will also have the opportunity to make their own digital short films. Because of the high level of writing and discussing, the course will be much more than just watching movies.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

### **Great American Novels (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

This discussion-based course is for students who want to have a grasp of American classics as they prepare for college. It picks up where American Literature leaves off, focusing on great novels from the Twentieth Century. Students will explore how American novels reflect the diversity of the American experience.

# English

## **Immigrant Literature-Stories and Voices from Minnesota and Around the World (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

This literature-based course is for students who enjoy a book-club style seminar and an opportunity to discuss how *story* and *memory* intersect among immigrants living in the United States. Students will read a variety of stories from immigrants both in Minnesota and around the world.

## **Mythology (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

This course covers a wide range of myths from various countries and time periods. From these, students will examine the universal archetypes underlying many of the world's cultures and, as a result, will seek to broaden their understanding of their own culture. The primary texts will be Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* and Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*, but the course will also pursue many other avenues for studying myth in the modern world.

## **Non-Fiction Writing (S1)**

One semester, one credit course, open to seniors.

This course focuses on non-fiction essay writing and is geared toward students who have completed either Advanced Composition or AP Language and Composition. With an emphasis on the writing process, this class is taught as a writing workshop with students actively working in small and large groups on their essays.

## **Non-Fiction Writing Blended Online (S1)**

One semester, one credit course, open to seniors.

This course follows the same curriculum as Nonfiction Writing. Students will attend class two to three days a week for direct instruction, writing group activities, and full class discussion. The remaining days will be dedicated to student writing and writing group activities outside the classroom. Further, the instructor will offer office hours during this time to enable individual instruction.

## **Science Fiction Literature (S1)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

This course is for students who want to examine the genre of science fiction as important and deserving of intelligent consideration and commentary. Using short stories, this course examines the development of science fiction over time. Novels will be read in order to examine what this genre – which is filled with what seem to be non-realities and impossibilities – has to offer to our present day world and issues.

## **Shakespeare (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Several of the major plays of Shakespeare will be read and discussed in this course, with special emphasis on Shakespeare's understanding of human nature as shown by his character portrayals. Shakespeare will be considered from the point of view of his timelessness, his showmanship, and his relevance for modern teenagers. This course is intended for the student seriously interested in interpreting, analyzing, and enjoying Shakespeare's philosophy of life.

## **Sports Writing (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

With the goal of developing each student's voice as a sports writer, this course focuses on teaching students the art of writing within the world of sports. Through composing game recaps, player profiles, sports narratives, sports commentaries, completing a semester-long sports-based research writing project, and becoming editors of each other's essays, students will develop their writing skills and refine their writing style.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

## **Twentieth Century Drama (S1)**

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

This course introduces students to some of the most noted playwrights and the major dramatic movements of the twentieth century. We will look at a variety of plays as reflections of and reactions to their social and historical context and try to understand what they tell us about our world and ourselves.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

# English

## **Summer Option with additional fee: Eco-Writing (S1)**

One credit course, offered as summer option, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Eco-Writing is for students who love the outdoors and want to write about it! This will be a blended online summer course with classes meeting June 19, 21 and 23, culminating with a week-long canoe trip at Lake Trails Base Camp in Oak Island, MN, from July 7 – 15, 2017. The class will expose students to legendary nature writers such as John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson and Mary Oliver. Students will develop their own “listening point” and create their own field journals; they will also learn to write reflectively and persuasively about the world around them. A final project will be due the week following our return.

**NOTE:** Sophomores and juniors enrolling in this course must enroll in the required English options available for that grade level. Seniors may use this elective as one of their two required English electives during their senior year. The overall minimum of 12.5 credits per semester is still required.

## *Journalism*

**Editorial Leadership: *Knight Errant* (YR)** Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: two semesters of Journalism classes, application, and teacher approval.*

**Seniors enrolled in Editorial Leadership must enroll in one additional English course each semester.**

**Juniors enrolled in Editorial Leadership must enroll in required English courses.**

Students who take this hands-on course will oversee production of the print and online editions of the *Knight Errant*. They will be responsible for all aspects of the publication. As the editorial board of the *Knight Errant*, students in this class will coordinate the work of the students in the Journalistic Writing, Video Journalism, Photojournalism, and Graphic Design classes, in addition to creating their own content for publication. Each student in the class will be assigned a specific leadership role.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

**Journalistic Writing (S1) (S2)** One semesters, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

**Sophomores and Juniors enrolled in Journalistic Writing must enroll in required English courses.**

Students who take this hand-on course will produce the written content for the print and online editions of the *Knight Errant*. They will work in conjunction with students in the Editorial Leadership class who will guide them through the writing process, from the conception of ideas to the final published product. Students in this class will explore the different styles of writing encompassed in the *Knight Errant*, including interview-based stories for the news, sports, and feature sections as well as opinion and review writing. With an emphasis on writing clear, concise, and engaging prose, this class will help students develop and hone their writing skills and provide them with an authentic audience for their writing. This course may be repeated.

**Video Journalism (S1) (S2)** One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

**Seniors enrolled in Video Journalism must enroll in one additional English course each semester.**

**Sophomores and Juniors enrolled in Video Journalism must enroll in required English courses.**

This course is designed to give students the ability to communicate in the video age-whether for the *Knight Errant* online, public relations, nonprofits, or social networking. Students will learn digital storytelling to communicate their ideas, rather than simply the technical knowledge of shooting and editing video. This course is all about creativity and hands-on learning. At the end, students should be comfortable in the video storytelling process-from the flash of an idea to the finished product on the screen, in the field, and in the studio classroom. This course may be repeated. *This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

# Fine Art

*All students are required to complete two semesters of a fine arts course, either art or music before graduation.*

## *Art*

*The art program at BSM provides students with the opportunity for developing creativity, imagination and effective visual expression, with a link to cultural history. Art & Design is a foundation course that fulfills one of two fine arts credits required for graduation. Following this prerequisite class, a student may enroll in classes involving more specific media and techniques.*

### **Art & Design (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

Art & Design is the foundational art course at BSM; students must successfully complete Art & Design before taking other art electives. The course is designed to introduce students to a variety of material, both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional. The course focuses on developing students' understanding of the artistic process, which includes:

- Developing Craft
- Engaging and Persisting
- Envisioning and Observing
- Reflecting and Evaluating
- Stretching and Exploring
- Understanding the Art World
- Collaboration and Community Engagement

### **3D Make it: Design and Build (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Art & Design.*

Makers are creative, resourceful and curious people. This course will encourage students to develop projects that demonstrate how they can interact with the world around them. Students will apply the powers of imagination, curiosity, problem solving and risk taking to create art, engineering and technology projects. Projects may include architecture, digital drafting, design and building 3D sculptures, models and intended installation pieces.

### **Clay I (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Art & Design.*

In this course students will be introduced to both hand building and wheel throwing. Students will learn to design and build forms using various methods and learn to throw useful objects using the potter's wheel. Students learn to work with the properties of clay and glaze through progressively more challenging projects. A majority of the class time will be spent working on projects. All materials, tools, and equipment will be provided.

### **Clay II (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Clay I.*

This course is for students who wish to further explore three-dimensional design and content. Students will develop problem solving skills, persistence, and creativity, along with skills in wheel throwing, surface decoration and sculpture.

### **Drawing & Painting I (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Art & Design.*

This course is designed for students who like to draw and paint. Students will learn skills and techniques in a variety of drawing and painting materials including charcoal, chalk pastel, watercolor pencil, oil pastel, watercolor paint, acrylic paint, and oil paint. Class work focuses on developing skills and developing student voice.

# Fine Art

## **Drawing & Painting II (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Drawing I, Painting I or Drawing and Painting I*

This course further explores a variety of drawing and painting media. Students will focus on developing skills and exploring both realistic and abstract subject matter. Students are often given free choice in use of materials and self-expression.

## **Graphic Design (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Art & Design and teacher approval.*

Imagine a Starbucks cup, a Nike shoe, or the iPhone. How many brands or companies could you name just by looking at their logo? Graphic designers are the creative minds that help make the visual connection between successful logos and the brands they represent. Advertising, clothing, magazines, print product and web design all use graphic design skills. We live in a highly visual world and graphic design makes visual communication more exciting. In this class students will learn to use Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign, as well as learn fundamental principles of design and typography.

## **Photography I (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Art & Design.*

In Photography I, students will learn to use manual settings on a 35mm camera, compose strong photographs, develop film, print negatives, and be introduced to some basic digital skills, Photoshop Lightroom, and Photoshop programs. Assignments will include composition techniques, portraits, landscapes and environment. Experimental darkroom techniques will be explored to enhance images. All students are expected to provide their own 35mm film camera (automatic cameras are acceptable) and have access to a digital camera as well.

## **Photography II (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Photography I.*

This course continues the exploration and perfection of photographic techniques and camera controls in both film and digital photography. Photoshop and Photoshop Lightroom skill sets will be expanded as well as additional darkroom skills building on the Photography 1 experience. The focus of the course is on developing a personal photographic style while building a digital skill set. All students enrolled in this class must have access to their own film and digital cameras.

## **Photojournalism (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Art and Design, Photography I and teacher approval.*

This course is designed to teach students the fundamentals and technical skills of photojournalism. Students will become a “reporter with a camera,” and work closely with the *Knight Errant* in addition to other skill building exercises. The class will cover a variety of photojournalistic subjects; general news, sports, features, speakers, environmental portraits, editorial illustrations, caption writing and photo essays. Students will learn to produce high-quality photographs that attract attention to a news story, and develop a photojournalist eye. In Photojournalism students will utilize and build upon basic photography skills: composition, lighting, camera technique, color correction, etc., so pictures communicate meaning to people who were not there to witness the event. This course may be repeated.

# Fine Art

## *Studio Art*

***Studio level courses may be repeated. Students must have successfully completed the first two levels of one medium to be eligible for enrollment.***

### **Ceramic Arts Studio (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisites: Clay I and Clay II.*

This course is for students who have a desire to further investigate sculptural and wheel thrown forms. Students will work with the teacher in determining projects and their objectives. The focus will be on improving skills students have begun to develop and on exploring the relationship between form, surface design, and original content.

### **Drawing & Painting Studio (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisites: Drawing II, Painting II or Drawing & Painting II*

This course is designed for students who have a desire to further develop technique and expression in drawing and painting. It is recommended to take this course before AP Studio Art. Students will develop series of artworks throughout the semester based on designated themes but emphasizing student choice.

### **Graphic Design Studio (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisites: Graphic Design.*

The focus will be on improving and expanding design skills students have already begun to develop. Students will have the opportunity to explore projects that fit personal interests while also highlighting their strengths and challenging their ability to communicate design effectively. Students will work closely with the *Knight Errant* staff to enhance the visual components of publications.

### **Photography Studio (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisites:–Photography I, Photography II.*

This course is for students who have a desire to further investigate photography. Students and teacher will collaborate on the designing of projects that will improve photographic skills and aid in the creation of a student portfolio.

# Fine Art

## *Advanced Placement Studio Art*

*The AP Studio Art course allows students the opportunity to earn college credit. In place of a traditional written exam, students submit a portfolio of their work for review. The portfolio includes both a breadth section, showcasing range and abilities, and a concentration section, a long term investigation of the students own developing. The number of pieces and requirements vary between portfolios. The instructor will introduce the requirements of the College Board and assist students. The AP Studio Art courses are largely student-directed and self-motivation is necessary for success. AP Studio Art is an equal access course, however, the art department highly encourages students to complete all levels, including Studio, leading up to the AP course in their given medium to benefit from a strong base of quality work to consider and build upon.*

**AP Studio Art: Photography (S1) (S2)**      One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisites: Photography I and II.*

The work included in the portfolio may come from any semester of painting, drawing, silkscreen or photography; however, the emphasis must be on photography. A base of 15-20 quality artworks is recommended before registering for this course.

**AP Studio Art: Drawing & Painting (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisites: Studio Painting, Studio Drawing or Drawing & Painting Studio*

AP Studio art is a portfolio-based course. It is highly recommended that students who intend to submit an AP portfolio enroll in two semesters of the course. On average, students enrolled in both semesters will complete 15 artworks. The AP portfolio requires 24 artworks; students may use artworks created outside of class to reach the required number of artworks. AP Studio Art encourages students to explore their own interests in art.

**AP Studio Art: 3-D Design (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisites: Clay I and Clay II.*

The work included in this portfolio will come from several semesters of clay. A base of 15 quality artworks is recommended before registering for this course. A minimum of five semesters of clay, including 2-3 semesters of AP, is necessary to experience the content and produce the number and types of work required by the College Board. Students serious about submitting an AP Studio Art: 3-D Design portfolio need to sign up for TWO semesters of AP their senior year.



# Fine Art

## *Music*

*The music department recognizes the importance of music in developing a student's self-esteem and the value of nurturing an appreciation for music. Outside of the formal course offerings, students may take part in the following extracurricular groups: Pop Choir, Brass Quartet, Madrigal Group, Jazz Band. These groups generally meet before or after school and do not satisfy a Fine Art requirement. The students also have the opportunity to be involved in the Metro West Conference Choir and Band Festivals, Honor Band and Honor Choir, Small Group Contest, and spring tour.*

### **Choir (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

This course is designed for students who like to sing. A wide selection of music is rehearsed and performed throughout the school year. Music includes sacred, classical, and contemporary tunes. Students will have an opportunity to work on solos and ensembles for a contest/festival. Attendance is required at all performances, including school liturgies, concerts and other performances scheduled by the director. It is recommended, but not necessary, to enroll in both semesters of choir. Based on enrollment and at the discretion of the instructors, students may be placed in one of the following choirs:

Concert Choir – open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Chamber Choir – open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

### **Music Theory (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Must be able to read music.*

This course will include a basic understanding of the fundamentals of music. Focusing on key signatures, scales, modes, and chord progressions, the student will learn to develop his/her own music with an understanding of creative composition using Finale music notation software.

### **Concert Band (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

*Prerequisite: A minimum of two years of band experience.*

Students will perform a wide variety of music: overtures, marches, lighter classics, and pop tunes. Students will work on improving their rhythm, technique, and style. Public performances will include concerts, athletic events, and a contest/festival with an opportunity for solo and ensemble playing. Attendance is required at major performances, athletic events and other events scheduled by the director. It is recommended, but not necessary, to enroll in both semesters of this course.

### **String Orchestra (S1) (S2)**

One semester, .5 credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

*This class will meet before school twice a week with regular once a week small group lesson during BSM hour.*

*Weekly private lessons outside of school are strongly encouraged. String Orchestra participates in school liturgies.*

This course builds upon the skills developed in junior high, continuing to increase musical awareness, refinement of technique, and performance skills, including various styles and periods of music. The repertoire studied covers a large spectrum from classics to pop to contemporary and liturgical music. Performances in a variety of venues including school mass, community and school events, and seasonal concerts with band and choir will require some after-school and before-school participation. Practice retreats are scheduled in the fall and spring. Extended weekend tours out of state are planned every other year.

# General Electives

## **Acting (S1)**

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

This course is designed to explore all aspects of dramatic performance. Students will study a variety of monologues, scenes, and short plays while working on skills of movement, breathing, articulation, and interpretation. Students who enroll in this class should primarily be interested in performing; all levels of interest and ability in the acting process will be encouraged and developed.

## **Coding and Agile Development (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Preference given to freshmen.

In this class, students are introduced to AGILE project development, while using various coding languages. Students will use a set of principles for software development in which requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration between self-organizing, cross-functional teams. Students will work together to build software and hardware to interact with, and impact, the world around them.

## **Teacher Assistant (S1) (S2)**

One semester, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

.5 credit: 1-4 days/week plus 7 graded courses OR 1 credit: 5 days/week plus 7 graded courses

Students have the opportunity to use their expertise in a subject area by serving as an assistant to a teacher.

Students should contact the instructor they are interested in assisting. Students are placed in TA positions two weeks after the start of the semester. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their

## **Technology Integration Assistant (S1) (S2)**

.5 credit: 1-4 days/week plus 7 graded courses, open to all grade levels

*Students must submit an application form. Admission based on the application and availability of staff position.*

Develop your technology skills working in the BSM technology helpdesk and assisting students and teachers with software and hardware needs. The knowledge and skills gained through this class include being able to troubleshoot issues with Mac/iOS operating systems, projectors, interactive displays, wireless networks, printing, scanning. Students will also become more proficient with multiple software platforms including Office, Google apps, iOS & Adobe Creative Suite. Students will work with teachers and students on projects that support teaching and learning at BSM. Students may opt to pursue CompTIA A+ certification (testing fee of approximately \$195). Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their academic transcript.

## **Yearbook I - Sangraal (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Students must submit an application form. Admission will be based on the application, and availability of staff positions.*

This course will allow students to learn about journalism, photography, principles of design, the use of Adobe InDesign, YearTech and Adobe Photoshop through a hands-on manner while producing the senior high yearbook. Staff members will be actively engaged in the production process throughout the school year. Staff responsibilities will range from conducting interviews, taking photographs, writing copy and designing page layouts.

## **Yearbook II - Sangraal (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Yearbook I and instructor approval.*

Yearbook II is open to students who have been assigned editorial positions on the upcoming *Sangraal* staff. The production process will be further explored through performing editorial duties, such as supervising staff members, editing proofs, and communicating with the production plant.

## **Yearbook III - Sangraal (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: Yearbook II and instructor approval.*

# Guidance

*The Benilde-St. Margaret's guidance department provides many services to students and parents. For more detailed information regarding all services provided, students and parents are encouraged to visit the BSM website ([www.BSMschool.org](http://www.BSMschool.org)) click on "Academics" then, from the left menu, select "Guidance/College and Career."*

## **Academic Support (S1) (S2)**

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

One or two semesters, no credit.

This course provides students the opportunity to receive academic and organizational support in a supervised study hall format. This class supports students with a documented diagnosis that affects their ability to perform in a school setting.

## **Career/College Planning (S2)**

One semester course, .5 credits, required of all juniors.

This workshop provides students the opportunity to make well-informed decisions regarding their future education and career. Components of the workshop include an all-day event on college and career planning, completion of a portfolio of work, and attendance at the BSM College Fair. During the all-day event students will attend sessions on a variety of helpful topics to aid them in the college planning and application process. Each student is required to complete a portfolio of work building on the information they receive at the event. Students will be required to use online resources to complete their portfolio. Students are required and parents are encouraged to attend an individual meeting with their guidance and college counselor. This meeting will be scheduled by the guidance office during the spring of junior year. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their academic transcript.

## **Learning Lab (S1) (S2)**

One or two semesters, .5 credits per semester, open to freshmen.

Students have the opportunity to receive academic and organizational support in this study hall supervised by the learning specialist. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their academic transcript. This class supports students with a documented diagnosis that affects their ability to perform in a school setting.

## **Think, Learn, Communicate (TLC) (S1) (S2)**

One semester course, one credit, open to freshmen.

Do you want to learn more about yourself and relate to others in a more effective way? Would you like to improve your self-confidence? Would you like to meet and get to know other students? Well, this may be the course for you! This course focuses on personal development and is designed to empower the student to reach their full potential in high school and beyond by teaching students how to improve self-confidence, relationships with family and friends, and academics. Specifically, the course includes three essential strategies for self-discovery:

**T**hinking-taking healthy risks, monitoring moods, attitudes and emotional IQ;

**L**earning-improve organization, goal setting, decision making, eliminating distractions and develop study skills;

**C**ommunication-improving listening assertiveness and conflict resolution skills.

This is a great course for students to meet other students as there is a great deal of self-reflection and class discussion.

# Health, Wellness and PhyEd

## **Health (S1)(S2)**

One semester, one credit, required of all freshmen.

The health curriculum is designed to assist the students in making healthy choices. Topics of study include personal health, nutrition, mental health, substance abuse, stress management, physical fitness, body systems, marriage and family planning, as well as CPR.

## **Physical Education 9 (YR)**

Two semesters, .5-credits per semester, required of all freshmen.

This is an activity-based course that involves instruction and participation in individual as well as team sports. The different team sports include but are not limited to speedball, flag football, volleyball, cricket, and floor hockey. In addition, individual activities include weight training and conditioning, physical fitness testing, orienteering, heart rate monitor training, and archery.

## **Wellness 10 (YR)**

Two semesters, .5 credits per year, required of all sophomores.

Sophomores participate in a wellness activity elective one day per week. Options include a variety of fitness programs, recreational games, outdoor activities, cooking and sports nutrition, relaxation and stress reduction, dance, woodworking, and fiber arts. Wellness activities are also available to students on a drop-in basis during their BSM hour.

## **Wellness 11 (YR)**

Two semesters, .5 credits per year, required of all juniors.

Juniors take a curriculum-based wellness class one day per week for one quarter and participate in a wellness activity elective one day per week the other quarters. Activity options include a variety of fitness programs, recreational games, outdoor activities, cooking and sports nutrition, relaxation and stress reduction, dance, woodworking, and fiber arts. Wellness activities are also available to students on a drop-in basis during their BSM hour.

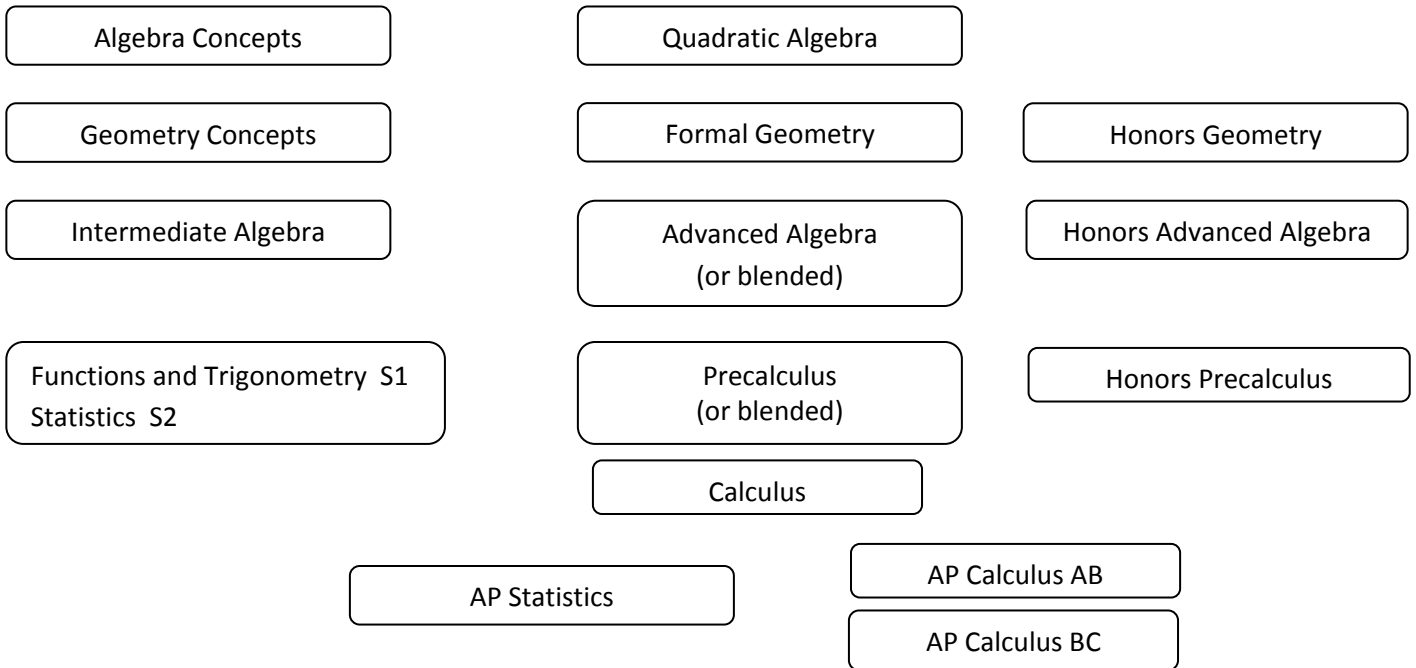
## **Wellness 12 (YR)**

Two semesters, .5 credits per year, required of all seniors.

Seniors participate in a wellness activity elective one day per week. Options include a variety of fitness programs, recreational games, outdoor activities, cooking and sports nutrition, relaxation and stress reduction, dance, woodworking, and fiber arts. Wellness activities are also available to students on a drop-in basis during their BSM hour.

# Mathematics

*In grades 9-12, each student is required to complete three years of mathematics courses. The beginning course is determined by placement test scores, teacher recommendation, and previous courses completed. Placement may be reevaluated based on academic progress. Students are encouraged to take four years of mathematics courses during grades 9-12.*



## Algebra Concepts (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Middle school teacher recommendation, student's EXPLORE test score.*

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to take more time with algebraic concepts that may be difficult and to give students more individualized attention. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

## Geometry Concepts (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Algebra Concepts.*

This course is designed to provide students more time with difficult geometric concepts and to give students more individualized attention. While the deductive character of Geometry is preserved, emphasis is shifted from formal proofs to practical application and strengthening algebraic skills. A scientific calculator are required, TI-30 recommended.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

## Intermediate Algebra (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Geometry Concepts or Formal Geometry.*

This course offers an in-depth review of algebra with an introduction to many Advanced Algebra topics. Advanced topics include matrices, polynomials, logarithms, and exponential functions. The course is designed primarily to meet the needs of those students who need to strengthen their algebra skills before taking the Advanced Algebra course. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

# Mathematics

## Quadratic Algebra (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

This course is designed for those students who completed an Algebra I course including linear and exponential functions. This course will complete the Algebra I curriculum by covering quadratic, polynomial, rational, and radical functions. Additional topics may include probability, piecewise linear functions, absolute value functions, transformations of all functions and basic trigonometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

## Formal Geometry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Quadratic Algebra or 8<sup>th</sup> grade algebra that covers quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions.*

This course is designed to develop logic and reasoning skills as the student studies topics such as congruence and similarity, properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures, perimeter, area, and volume. Concentrated work with proof-writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logic of geometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

## Advanced Algebra (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Formal Geometry OR*

*Intermediate Algebra with a grade of "B" or higher in both semesters of Intermediate Algebra.*

This course is designed to continue to strengthen algebra skills while introducing more advanced topics. This course emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students study absolute value, rational, logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and other special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

## Advanced Algebra Blended Online (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Formal Geometry with a grade of "B" or higher in both semesters.*

This course follows the same curriculum as Advanced Algebra class but allows the student the opportunity to learn in a blended instructional experience. The class combines online resources with a classroom supported environment using a flexible assessment schedule. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

## Functions & Trigonometry (S1)

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra.*

This one-semester course offers a less rigorous alternative to precalculus and integrates graphic and algebraic concepts to study functions and transformations of functions. The course previews precalculus work in functions, logarithms, and trigonometry. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

## Statistics (S2)

One semester, one credit.

*Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra.*

This one-semester course offers an in-depth introduction to the field of statistics. Students will learn how to organize, interpret, and display numerical data. Data will be analyzed using statistical tools such as the normal distribution, the binomial distribution, and measures of center and spread. Students will also be introduced to probability theory as it relates to statistics. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

# Mathematics

## **Precalculus (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra or both Functions and Trigonometry and Statistics (FST) with a grade of “B” or higher in Advanced Algebra or FST.*

This course is intended for students with a strong background in advanced algebra, trigonometry, and geometry. Attention is focused on expanding the depth and breadth of concepts, both old and new, as well as on the refinement of manipulative skills. The course provides work in varied mathematical areas such as functions, logarithms, trigonometry, sequences, combinations, probability and conics. An emphasis is placed on integration and application of concepts. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

## **Precalculus Blended Online (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra with a grade of “B” or higher in Advanced Algebra.*

This course follows the same curriculum as Precalculus but allows the student the opportunity to learn in a blended instructional experience. This class combines online resources with a classroom supported environment using a flexible assessment schedule. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

## **Calculus (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Precalculus with a grade of “C” or higher in both semesters OR Honors Precalculus with a grade of “C+” or higher in both semesters.*

This course is intended to give students a thorough study of differentiation and integration among other topics covered in a first semester college calculus course. The course is designed to allow more time to explore difficult concepts and to give students, who will need to take calculus in college, a head start. It is not intended to prepare students for the AP Calculus test nor are students expected to take the AP Calculus test. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

# Mathematics

## *Honors*

### **Honors Geometry (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Quadratic Algebra or 8<sup>th</sup> grade algebra covering quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions with a grade of “A” in both semesters of Algebra.*

Honors Geometry provides an in-depth and very challenging study of geometry at an accelerated pace including rigorous proof and logic-based problems. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is designed to develop logic and reasoning skills as the student studies topics such as congruence and similarity, properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures, perimeter, area, and volume. Concentrated work with proof-writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logic of geometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

### **Honors Advanced Algebra (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Formal Geometry with a grade of “A” in both semesters OR Honors Geometry with a grade of “C+” or higher in both semesters.*

This course provides an in-depth and very challenging study of advanced algebra at an accelerated pace. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is designed to continue to strengthen algebra skills while introducing more advanced topics. This course emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students study absolute value, rational, logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and other special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

### **Honors Precalculus (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra with a grade of “A” in both semesters OR Honors Advanced Algebra with a grade of “C+” or higher in both semesters.*

This course provides an in-depth and very challenging study of Precalculus at an accelerated pace. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is intended for students with a strong background in advanced algebra, trigonometry, and geometry. Attention is focused on expanding the depth and breadth of concepts, both old and new, as well as on the refinement of manipulative skills. The course provides work in varied mathematical areas such as functions, logarithms, trigonometry, sequences, combinations, probability, and conics. An emphasis is placed on integration and application of concepts. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.



# Mathematics

## *Advanced Placement*

### **AP Calculus AB (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Precalculus with a grade of “B” or higher in both semesters OR Honors Precalculus with a grade of “B – “or higher in both semesters.*

This is a rigorous course designed to reinforce and utilize the content of previous courses while acquiring the skills of differentiation and integration and an in-depth application of these concepts. This is material that would be included in a first semester calculus sequence at the college level. The course includes, but is not limited to, all topics in the current Advanced Placement Calculus AB curriculum. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

### **AP Calculus BC (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB with a grade of “B” for the year in AP Calculus AB.*

This rigorous course covers the same differential and integral calculus topics that are included in the AP Calculus AB curriculum, plus many additional topics including polynomial approximations and series. This is material that would be included in a second semester calculus sequence at the college level. The course includes, but is not limited to, all topics in the current AP Calculus BC curriculum. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

### **AP Statistics (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra or FST with a grade of “B” or higher OR Precalculus with a “C+ or higher.*

This is a rigorous course designed to teach students how to organize, display, and interpret data. An emphasis will be placed on the four major themes of the AP Statistics curriculum: exploring data, sampling and experimental design, anticipating patterns with probability and simulation, and statistical inference. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

# Science

*All students are required to complete six semesters of science. ACS Engineering and Biomedical courses are science electives that do not fulfill the BSM science graduation requirement.*

## *Freshman*

*A yearlong Physical Science course is required of freshmen. Placement is based on test scores and teacher recommendation.*

### **Physical Science Concepts (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen.

This is a project based course covering physics and chemistry topics, with a focus on developing skills for scientific investigation. Students will practice useful laboratory skills, where teamwork and cooperative learning will be utilized. An understanding of scientific knowledge will be increased while critical-thinking and algebra skills are employed. First semester topics include general science skills, motion and forces, Newton's laws, mechanical energy, and simple machines. Second semester topics include the properties of matter, the separation and identification of matter, the periodic table, and energy. Activities will include semester-ending projects, laboratory work, online simulations, formal lab write-ups, written assignments, lectures, and demonstrations. *This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

### **Physical Science (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, required of freshmen.

The purpose of this course is to give students an introduction to basic physics and chemistry. This is a project-based course with emphasis on developing problem-solving skills necessary for scientific investigations. The students will learn fundamental laboratory skills through which teamwork and cooperative learning will be emphasized. First semester topics include the metric system, motion, forces, energy, and machines. Topics covered in the second semester will consist of physical and chemical properties, using properties to classify matter, the periodic table, chemical formulas, and nomenclature. Activities will include projects, laboratory work, formal assignments, inquiry-based activities, lectures, and demonstrations.

## *Sophomore*

*A yearlong Biology course is required of sophomores. Additionally, sophomores who qualify may enroll in Biomedical Science I as an elective.*

### **Biology Concepts (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores.

*Prerequisite: Physical Science or Physical Science Concepts.*

This course will examine the broad concepts of biology with emphasis on the environment and the effect people have on the world. The interactions of people, science, and nature will be studied. Lab work will include introductory microscopy, the care and maintenance of organisms, and dissection. Classroom activities will include lecture, lab work, and discussion.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

### **Biology (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, required of sophomores.

*Prerequisite: Physical Science or Physical Science Concepts.*

This course examines the biological world with an emphasis on real-world applications. Topics covered will include cell biology, molecular basis of inheritance, and interdependence of organisms, living systems, and the behavior of organisms. Students will use technology in the classroom and be involved in many laboratory activities such as DNA gel electrophoresis, and fetal pig dissection.

### **Honors Biology (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores.

*Prerequisites: Physical Science with a minimum grade of "A" – "in each semester and satisfactory completion of a summer assignment.*

Honors Biology is a rigorous course designed to challenge students who have a great curiosity and ability in science. The faster pace of this course covers the same material as the regular Biology course while allowing additional topics related to medicine and anatomy to be covered. Because of the faster pace, students will be expected to be hard workers, motivated learners, and able to grasp scientific concepts quickly.

# Science

## *Junior*

***A yearlong Chemistry science course is required during junior year. Placement is based on test scores and teacher recommendation. Juniors may also choose to take Ecology. Biomedical Science I or Biomedical Science II.***

### **Applied Chemistry (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

This project-based course focuses on the real-world applications of chemistry concepts. Thematic units lay the groundwork for topics such as solubility, the periodic table, chemical reactions, moles, gas laws, and calorimetry. Activities include unit-ending projects, class discussion, student presentations, and laboratory work.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

### **Chemistry (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Physical Science with a minimum grade of "C+" in each semester of Quadratic Algebra OR Advanced Algebra with a "C" in each semester.*

This course is intended for those students who seek a solid chemistry background in preparation for college or desire a complete understanding of chemical principles. Students will study the structure, properties, and changes in matter as well as the laws, principles and theories describing matter. Classroom activities will include lectures, demonstrations, problem solving, and experiments.

### **Honors Chemistry (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Honors Advanced Algebra with a minimum grade of "A-" or better in each semester.*

Honors Chemistry is a rigorous course designed to challenge students who have a great curiosity and ability in science. The faster pace of this course covers the same material as the regular Chemistry course while allowing additional topics to be covered. Because of the faster pace, students will be expected to be independent problem solvers, motivated learners, and able to grasp scientific concepts quickly. Students will also be expected to handle mathematical manipulations easily.

***NOTE: Effective in the 2018-2019 school year, AP Chemistry will replace Honors Chemistry.***

## *Senior*

### **Ecology (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

Ecology will provide hands-on, often outdoor, learning experiences through project-based problem solving activities. Students will learn about the interrelationships of living things and their physical environments. Students will engage in the study of environmental topics affecting the world in which they live.

### **Forensic Science (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: A minimum grade of "B" in each semester of Physical Science, Biology and Chemistry.*

Are you intrigued by CSI? Does a statement like, "We're not quite sure of the C.O.D but there is some GSR on our vic," resonate with you? If so, this class might be for you! Forensic science is a challenging investigative course that applies scientific principles and technological practices from biology, chemistry, and physics for the purpose of justice. Some major themes of study will include: collecting physical evidence, glass and soil, fingerprints, hair and fiber, DNA typing, chemical analysis, sound waves, blood splatter analysis, entomology, casts, impressions, and tool marks. This is a year-long course that will require critical thinking, problem solving and an investigative and curious mind as we build upon these themes at an advanced level.

# Science

## *Senior*

### **Physics (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of three years of mathematics through Advanced Algebra with a grade of “C+” or higher in Advanced Algebra OR Honors Advanced Algebra with a “C” or higher. .*

This course is designed for students who have a natural curiosity about how the world works. Have you ever wondered why you get pushed to the outside of a car when going around a curve? Why do spaceships “slingshot” themselves past other planets? Why does your hair get more “static-y” during the winter? We’ll focus on topics like kinematics and motion, forces, energy, momentum, electricity, magnetism, waves, light, and sound. Through labs and engineering challenges, students will gain a better understanding of how the rules of nature can explain our everyday experiences. Students will complete lab assignments and 1-2 major projects. This course is designed for anyone who has an interest in science.

### **Honors Physics (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: Honors Precalculus with a minimum grade of an “A-“ in each semester OR successful completion of AP Calculus AB.*

This advanced, college preparatory course is designed for students who have a strong mathematical background and an interest in problem solving and abstract reasoning. We will study how matter and energy interact, and will be focusing on quantitative reasoning. The primary focus of this course will be on the laws of conservation of matter, energy, momentum, and electrical charge. Topics include the mechanics of solids and liquids, wave phenomena, electricity, the dual nature of light, and atomic structure. Students will be required to complete lab assignments and one major project. This course is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in a STEM related field.

**NOTE: Effective in the 2018-2019 school year, AP Physics will replace Honors Physics.**

# Science

## *Electives*

### *Sophomore, Junior and Senior*

*The Biomedical courses allow students to investigate the connections between biology, medicine, and technology. These rigorous electives give students the chance to pursue their interest in medicine and medical technologies by engaging in hands-on laboratory experiences while acting as biomedical professionals.*

#### **Biomedical Science I: Investigations (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

Preference will be given to sophomores, juniors, then seniors.

*Prerequisites: Biology with a minimum grade of "B" in each semester OR concurrent enrollment in Honors Biology.*

This course is a hands-on, lab-oriented class designed for those students interested in medicine and medical technologies. Students will learn how the systems of the body work together to maintain health. Coursework will include dissections, case studies, simulations, guest speakers, and laboratory use of medical equipment. Students will be investigating real world medical cases and act as biomedical professionals.

#### **Biomedical Science II: Technologies and Interventions (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biomedical Science I and teacher recommendation. Students will be required to read and analyze a medically themed book during the summer.*

This course builds on Biomedical Science I exploring medical interventions used to maintain health. These may include pharmacology, biomedical engineering, disease prevention (epidemiology), radiology, academic research, and others. Bioethics will be a theme throughout the year. Students will work with research-grade instruments to complete research and conduct simulations.

#### **Biomedical Science III: Collaborative Research (YR) - Two semesters, two credits.**

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biomedical Science II and teacher recommendation.*

Students will collaborate with other students, teachers, and/or professionals in their field of study to design and implement a research project or product. Students will focus on an area of personal interest in the Biomedical field and study it in depth. Outcomes from the course may include publishing research findings, a professional poster symposium, participating in national research-related competitions, and/or an internship in the field.

# Science

## *Electives*

### *Sophomore, Junior and Senior*

#### **Advanced Competitive Science (Engineering)**

*Advanced Competitive Science (ACS) is a conceptual engineering program in which students explore mechanical and electrical systems through fabrication and assemblies, design processes utilizing 3D modeling tools and control systems incorporating sensor interfacing, data collection, motion control and embedded logic programming. Rather than a traditional information-push class dynamic, ACS provides a learning environment whereby students pull learning elements from various resources and thereby develop advanced problem-solving skills and sub-levels of mastery in formal teachings of science and mathematics. By engaging students in the iterative process of problem formulation, abstraction, analysis, design, prototyping, testing and evaluating, ACS expands student development beyond information centrality and toward innovation and entrepreneurialism.*

#### **Engineering I (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Engineering 1 is the introductory course in the BSM Engineering Program. In this first-year course students develop an engineer's perspective of effective problem solving and engineering design while exploring fundamental mechanical engineering concepts. Through iterative processes, students learn about experimentation, optimization and performance.

#### **Engineering II (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors with instructor approval.

Engineering 2 is the second year course in the BSM Engineering Program. In Engineering 2 students continue to expand their engineer's perspective of effective problem solving and engineering design while gaining new skills with the introduction of 3D CAD software, fabrication with rapid prototyping, and preliminary development of an advanced project that will carry over to Engineering III. Our current focus is design and development of search and rescue robots. Robots provide a good tool for learning about systems and how to think in terms of systems integration. During this year, students are introduced to computer programming.

#### **Engineering III (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors with instructor approval.

Engineering 3 is the third and final year of the BSM Engineering Program. In Engineering 3 students will formalize their engineering habits of mind and engineer's perspective of effective problem solving and engineering design, hone their CAD skills and improve parts design and fabrication processes, finalize mechanical performance of their small form factor machine, and experience an in-depth immersion into the world of data acquisition and processing related to robot control, both human operated and embedded. In the second semester, students take over the agile project management of our ACS advanced research project and competition travel team, leading organization and communication for a cohesive end-design.

# Social Studies

## *Freshman*

*While there is no social studies requirement during freshman year, freshmen who are highly motivated, have an excellent work ethic, and the ability to think, read, and write critically may enroll in World History-Foundations, semester two.*

## *Sophomore*

*World History-Foundations is the prerequisite to World History-Thematic. Concurrent enrollment in both courses is not allowed.*

### **World History-Foundations (S1) (S2)**

One Semester, one credit.

First semester is required of all sophomores who did not enroll as a freshman

Second semester is open only to freshmen meeting the enrollment requirements.

World History is a year-long required survey course that explores key events and global historical developments since 1450 AD that have shaped the world we live in today.

The first semester of World History places a special emphasis on the development of Modern Europe. Our study begins during the Renaissance and Reformation and ends with Nationalism and the Age of Imperialism. Students will uncover patterns of behavior, identify historical trends and themes, and explore historical movements and concepts. Students will conduct critical analysis, build and refine their ability to read for comprehension, compare, categorize, summarize, and evaluate information. The curriculum and study skills lay the foundation for the continued exploration of various themes in world history.

### **World History-Thematic (S1) (S2)**

One Semester, one credit.

This course is required of all sophomores. Sophomores who completed World History-Foundations as a freshman must enroll in S1 of this course.

*Prerequisite: World History-Foundations.*

The second semester is a thematic study of world history. Areas of study include *Global War, International Communism, Independence and Nationalism in the Developing World, Global Terrorism and, the United Nations*. Each student will apply the research, writing, and critical thinking skills developed during the first semester in his or her continued study and as they conduct a case study exploring a contemporary global issue or topic.

# Social Studies

## *Junior*

### **American Studies/Social Studies (S2)**

One semester, two credits, open to juniors.

*Prerequisite: English and Social Studies with a grade of “B” or higher in both sophomore courses and first quarter junior year English and Social Studies classes.*

*Students must enroll in first semester United States History. Semester two students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social. This course fulfills the second semester United States History Social Studies requirement.*

This course blends US historical events and themes in American literature to provide students with a comprehensive social, political, economic, and literary history. Five time periods each reflecting different epochs will be team taught: Great Depression, World War 2, Civil Rights, Cold War Conflict, and Challenges of Modern American Society. Having both literary and historical figures illuminating the human experience, American Studies fosters a deeper understanding of the principles, problems and issues basic to the establishment of our country. This understanding is essential for students to fully appreciate the complexities of history as it unfolds in modern times. Students enrolled in this course will meet two consecutive class periods.

### **United States History (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, required of all juniors.

This course is designed to give students an understanding of the problems of our evolving democracy and a realistic knowledge of our past through basic themes in United States history: states’ rights and nationalism, expansion and economic growth, Civil War, industrialization and trade, domestic issues and wars. Within these themes, selected topics are dealt with: political parties, slavery, immigration, reform, the Depression, the New Deal, imperialism, alliances, the Cold War, Vietnam, Civil Rights, conservatism, and constitutional crisis. The content is presented in chronological order from the pre-Civil War era to the present. Ongoing skill development in reading comprehension, critical thinking, critical research, historic writing and integrative technology compliment the content of this course.

## *Advanced Placement*

## *Junior*

### **Advanced Placement United States History (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors.

*Prerequisite: Recent sophomore social studies course with a grade of “B” or higher.*

*A summer assignment may be required.*

This college-level course is designed for juniors who have strong academic abilities, time management and study skills, along with a keen interest in United States History. The course is presented in chronological order from the Colonial Period to the Present. Various topics and events will be examined with an emphasis being placed on in-depth analysis of cause and effect relationships. Students are expected to actively participate in debates, simulations, speeches, presentations and other classroom activities. The course will also focus on the “Course Themes” and “Historical Thinking Skills” required by the College Board for the APUSH class. Special emphasis is placed on learning the writing skills needed for the different types of essays required for the AP exam.



# Social Studies

## *Senior*

### **United States Government and Politics (S1)**

One semester, one credit, required of all seniors.

This course consists of a survey of political thought and experience in the United States. American government at local, state, and federal levels will be studied, with an emphasis placed upon the institutions of the federal government. Course topics include the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, political process, political philosophy, civil rights, the role of government, current events, and the duties of a United States citizen.

### **Economics (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This survey course covers macro- and microeconomic theory, and it is designed to prepare students for an intro-level college economics course. Students will study the fundamental concepts of economics and the national economy and their links to the changing global economy. Course work will include the study of "consumerism," decision-making, various product markets, economic models and, the student's role in the factors of production and consumption. An ongoing analysis and discussion of current economic policies and trends is also a significant aspect of this course.

### **Psychology (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course is a survey of the science of human behavior. Topics include psychology as a science, the psychology of learning, and biological influence on behavior, personality development, and abnormal psychology. Students will discover the many applications that psychology has on his or her life.

# Social Studies

## *Advanced Placement*

### *Senior*

#### **Advanced Placement European History (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: United States History with a grade of “B+” or higher in both semesters OR  
AP United States History with a grade of “B-” or higher in both semesters.*

*Approval from the teacher of most recent social studies course recommended.*

This is a course about the formation and development of Europe from the Renaissance to the modern day. Topics will be studied in a chronological thematic order. The course introduces students to a variety of political and economic systems, ideologies and theories as well as explores social and religious issues that interacted with these ideas and systems. The course also examines the impact of historical development on culture including art, music and literature. In addition to discussion of content, emphasis is placed on expressing historical thinking through writing thematic essays as well as in-depth analysis of trends and cause-and-effect relationships.

#### **Advanced Placement Microeconomics (S2)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: United States History with a grade of “B+” or higher in both semesters OR  
AP United States History with a grade of “B-” or higher in both semesters  
along with approval of teacher of most recent social studies course.*

Advanced Placement Microeconomics is a course designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles of economics as they apply to individual decision-making units, including individual households and firms. Students taking the course will spend time examining the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the behavior of profit-maximizing firms under various market structures. They will evaluate the efficiency of the outcomes with respect to price, output, consumer surplus, and producer surplus. Students will have an opportunity to examine the behaviors of households and businesses in factor markets, and learn how the determination of factor prices, wages, interest, and rent influence the distribution of income in a market economy. Students will also consider instances in which private markets may fail to allocate resources efficiently and examine various public policy alternatives aimed at improving the efficiency of private markets.

#### **Advanced Placement United States-Government and Politics (S1)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: United States History with a grade of “B+” or higher in both semesters OR  
AP United States History with a grade of “B-” or higher in both semesters  
along with approval of teacher of most recent social studies course.*

The United States government is a complex organization of structure and theory. This course combines both general concepts and specific institutions to develop an understanding of the government and political environment of the United States and why it functions as it does. Six areas of emphasis are covered in the course: constitutional underpinnings; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, special interest groups, and mass media; governmental institutions (including the three branches); public policy; and civil rights and civil liberties. This course will analyze both the theoretical and practical components of our political system and government structure through discussion, analysis, and fluency. Analysis of current news, reports, blogs, and debates will guide discussion of theory and practice.

# Social Studies

## *Advanced Placement*

### *Senior*

#### **Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: United States History with a grade of “B+” or higher in both semesters OR*

*AP United States History with a grade of “B-” or higher in both semesters*

*along with approval of teacher of most recent social studies course.*

Comparative politics is the study of other countries’ political and economic systems and why they function as they do. Since this course examines the current systems of various countries, a strong emphasis is placed on current events in the course. The study of comparative government enables students to have a deeper understanding of global politics and U.S. foreign policy. Students will explore the impact of democratization, globalization and marketization on the development of government and politics. Six core countries are studied, as well as general concepts, such as political culture and political socialization, democracy, communism and post-communism, the political economy and supranational organizations such as the EU, UN, IMF and World Bank. Countries studied include: Great Britain, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria and Iran.

# Theology

*Supported by academic rigor and spiritual experiences, our theology curriculum encourages students to learn the Gospel message and strengthen their personal and communal faith lives. We are committed to teaching and celebrating the Catholic faith while simultaneously appreciating differing faith perspectives.*

*As a national service learning leader school we have embedded service learning into our curriculum. We challenge students to become agents of positive social change in alignment with Catholic social teaching. Upon graduation, all students will have a four-year electronic portfolio of their service and justice work.*

*Students are required to enroll in one theology course each semester.*

## *Freshman*

*Freshmen will be exposed to a broad experience of service through the curriculum.*

### **Theology 9: Introduction to Scripture (S1)**

One semester, one credit, required.

This course gives students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, students will come to encounter the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course, students will learn about the Bible, authored by God through inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. Students will learn how to read the Bible and become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. Throughout the course students will be introduced to a broad range of service experiences as they relate to loving God and others. Students will participate in one school sponsored service project and one individual project. There are no specific hour requirements for this course.

### **Theology 9: Christology: The Person of Jesus (S2)**

One semester, one credit, required.

This course introduces students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, and the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course, students will understand Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God. Students will participate in several service projects where they will experience a broad range of needs in our community. Through this service, students will both learn who Jesus is, come to know Him on a personal level, and experience Christ in others as they follow in His footsteps to serve one another. Students will participate in one school sponsored service project and one individual project. There are no specific hour requirements for this course.

# Theology

## *Sophomore*

*Sophomores will incorporate servant leadership into their lives through the curriculum.*

### **Theology 10: Jesus Christ's Mission in the Church (S1)**

One semester, one credit, required.

This course introduces students to the sacred nature of the Church. The course will focus on the models of church and on the foundation of the church by Christ through the Apostles. Students will begin to understand that through the Church they can encounter the living Jesus. Each student will practice servant leadership as a way of modeling what Jesus taught. Students will participate in two individual service projects. (There are no specific hour requirements for this course.)

### **Theology 10: The Paschal Mystery (S2)**

One semester, one credit, required.

The word "paschal" comes from a Hebrew word meaning "the passing over" and refers to the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a fundamental core belief of Christian churches. This course will focus on how we as believers share in the promise of the resurrection. Students will explore elements of the Paschal Mystery in their daily lives and will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Servant leadership is the primary way students will practice their discipleship. Students will participate in one individual service project. (There are no specific hour requirements for this course.)

## *Junior*

*Juniors will engage in a service practicum through the required curriculum. It is essential juniors take great consideration as to which semester they are enrolling in the Discipleship in Society class. This class requires 35 hours of service outside of class time. Be sure to consider all extra-curricular commitments when selecting the semester of this class. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request, but it is not guaranteed.*

### **Theology 11: Discipleship in Society (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, required.

Through this course the students will deepen and broaden their understanding of the Gospel message and the church's social teaching. Students will learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, is present today in the church's social teaching and mission. Learning about the cycles of poverty and injustice that keep people oppressed, students will discern their role in service to others. Each student will participate in a service practicum completing 35 hours with one agency during the semester.

### **Theology 11: Individual Discipleship/Morality (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, required.

Through this course the students will discern how they can fully live out God's plan for their lives. Students will learn moral concepts and precepts that guide the development of conscience and a life of Christianity. The class will include a study of moral principles based on scripture and church documents. Students will develop moral decision making skills and apply those skills to complex issues of today.

# Theology

## *Senior*

*Seniors are required to enroll in one Theology course each semester and may choose from the electives listed below. Courses may not be repeated.*

### **Christian Prayer and Spirituality(S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course is designed for students who have a more developed interest in theology and spirituality. This class will address the origins and sources of prayer in the Bible and in the life of Jesus, and how those sources have been interpreted through contemporary spiritual literature. This examination of Christian Spirituality will include familiarization with the theology and methodology in the studied traditions. Students will learn, take part in, and develop skills in composing prayer services and retreats.

### **Christian Vocations (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course is a study of adult Christian life and the process of discerning a vocation in it. Students will learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course will be structured around married life, single life, priestly life and consecrated life. Students will study the uniqueness of marriage, the changing roles of men and women, communication and conflict resolution, family planning and sexuality. Students will learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the community.

### **Faith in Action (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course builds from the previous three years of service and social justice learning by encouraging students to be a sign of God's love through advocacy. Using Catholic sacramental theology, students reflect on and advocate for social justice issues. Students will understand that participating in the Sacraments can help them engage in God's love. Students will learn about the power of human potential to bring positive change in the world. Focus will be placed upon steps of effective advocating, conditions that continue global poverty and rights of women. Each student will participate in an advocacy project, completing 15 hours with one agency during the semester.

### **World Religions (S1) (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course studies the major non-Christian religions of the world: Islam, Primal Religious Traditions, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism. Students will explore seven primary dimensions for each religion: mythical, material, doctrinal, experiential, ethical, ritual, and social. Students will be expected to participate in class discussion and activities, and attend a non-Christian worship service.

*This theology course is APPROVED by the NCAA.*

# World Language

*Each student is required to take two years of a world language. Although students may begin a first or second world language at any point in their high school career, it is recommended that students begin as freshmen in order to take advantage of the full four-year curriculum. Many public and private universities require a minimum of two years of high school language study for admission. Studying a language for three or four years may exempt students from university exit requirements. Each university is different, so direct specific questions to the guidance department.*

## **Chinese I (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen and sophomores, and juniors.

This first year Chinese fundamental course offers students a solid foundation in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will engage in simple Chinese conversations such as greeting, giving basic personal information, naming basic objects, showing preferences and immediate needs. Students will recognize over 120 Chinese characters related to greetings, calendars, family members, animals, time, sports and other daily activities and write about 120 characters in Pinyin and 50 Chinese characters related to daily activities. As students comprehend simple passages related to learned topics, they will develop critical thinking skills in Chinese. Teaching strategies will associate with technologies in various topics. Likewise, students will type in Chinese, use online tools, make movies, and use graphics to design alongside each topic. Students will expand knowledge and understanding of China's cultures and history as they compare Chinese culture with that of their own culture.

## **Chinese II (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen and sophomores, and juniors.

*Prerequisite: Chinese I.*

This course is a continuation course designed for students who already have the basics of Chinese fundamental level one, or through some other relevant experience. The emphasis of this course is on listening, speaking and reading Chinese, plus some exercises with writing skills. Students will develop their vocabulary capacity through reading and improve daily oral skills in Chinese. Communicating in Chinese II will enable students to use Chinese comfortably, appropriately in making travel arrangements and in daily conversations: visiting friends making appointments, shopping, transportation, and discussing school life or weather. Additionally, the course will integrate the Chinese culture into the language learning and enhance the practices of Chinese language. This course will integrate technology in the learning of the Chinese language and follow National Standards for Foreign Language Education.

## **Chinese III (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Chinese II.*

This level three course emphasizes the proficiency of standard Chinese pronunciation and intermediate vocabulary. Standard Chinese (Mandarin) will also be taught through reading and writing. Simplified Chinese characters will be used and practiced throughout the course. Students will learn modern Mandarin Chinese through vigorous interactive practice and small group activities. The class is supported by using online tools to accelerate learning. Chinese history and culture will be interwoven in the language lessons.

## **Chinese IV (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Chinese III.*

This course is designed to build upon fundamentals to help students achieve greater fluency in oral expression and to emphasize the reading of Chinese character texts. Grammar will be taught through the use of sentence patterns and character writing will be practiced. Traditional and contemporary aspects of Chinese cultures will be taught. In this course, students will expand listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in standard Mandarin Chinese, attaining approximately the intermediate-low level on the ACTFL proficiency scale by the end of the school year. Students will be able to carry out a simple face-to-face conversation in various cultural contexts within the target culture. Students will learn and use more basic sentence patterns and be able to read simple stories about daily life. Students will narrate a simple story or describe an event of familiarity.

# World Language

## **French I (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

This first-level French course offers students a balanced approach to language learning, giving careful attention to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will gain cross-cultural awareness as they compare and contrast the cultures of French-speaking countries and their contributions to the global society. Students learn to talk about themselves, their families and interests as well as explore units on schools, cuisine and shopping. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

## **French II (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

*Prerequisite: French I.*

This second-level course is designed to develop and expand students' communication skills. The study of Francophone countries broadens to include Quebec and Senegal. Students read about and learn to discuss issues such as health and wellness, festivals and film. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music and films.

## **French III (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

*Prerequisite: French II.*

This course is designed to improve the basic skills of listening comprehension, oral expression, reading and writing through conversations, discussions, readings and practical writing activities. This course will refine and introduce new structures in grammar and vocabulary. The study of Francophone customs and cultures includes an overview of French history, art, fairy tales and legends. Students discuss topics such as love and friendships, the environment, media and society. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

## **French IV (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: French III.*

The goals of French IV are to improve student's ability to communicate in French, develop a deeper understanding of Francophone customs and culture and gain an appreciation of their roles in the world. Based on student's interests we co-create the curriculum selecting material from areas of language study, fine arts, literature, cultural topics and current events. Popular literary choices are *Le Petit Prince*, *Carmen*, and *Le Comte de Monte Cristo*. Students also have opportunities to discuss issues that are important to them, such as how to select the right college, racism, or teen peer pressure in French conversation circles.

## **French V (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: French IV.*

This advanced level course provides an option for students who have completed French IV and want an alternative to AP French. Students will continue to develop their language proficiency as they develop a more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar base. Students' interests drive the selection of material in this co-created curriculum. Some options are French provincial cooking, poetry, *Candide*, *En Attendant Godot*, immigration and discrimination in France, the United States, and film. Students have opportunities to discuss issues that are important to them in French conversation circles. They also have options to research an area of interest and present their findings to classmates.



# World Language

## **Latin I (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

This first-year course is designed for students with no prior Latin study. Students study the Latin language, Roman history and culture, and the connections between Latin and English, with a focus on grammar and vocabulary building. Through increasingly complex Latin readings, students move chronologically through the classical period, from early Roman literature to the writers of the early Roman Empire. Cultural and historical perspectives are broadened through supplemental materials and class discussions and projects.

## **Latin II (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

*Prerequisite: Latin I or two years junior high Latin.*

This second-year course, designed for students who wish to continue their study of Latin, focuses on more complex Latin grammar, vocabulary expansion, and the culture and history of the classical world. Supplemental materials and class projects enhance understanding of the ancient Roman world.

## **Latin III (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Latin II.*

Latin III continues to expand students' command of Latin grammar and vocabulary, to gain sufficient proficiency to begin reading ancient Roman authors in the original language. Through the school year, Latin language units alternate with in-depth units on Roman history, from prehistoric Italy to Rome's domination of the Mediterranean world.

## **Latin IV (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Latin III.*

The Latin sequence continues in a course covering a variety of genres and authors, ranging from Pliny's letters to Cicero's speeches to the poems of Martial and Vergil. Supplemental materials and class projects enhance understanding of the works being studied and the milieu in which they arose.

## **Latin V (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: Latin IV.*

Latin V continues to broaden and deepen students' understanding of the Latin language, Roman history and culture, and their impact on the modern world. A variety of ancient Roman and medieval Latin writers will be read and discussed, sampling an assortment of genres and eras. Poetry and prose, history, philosophy, and drama will be introduced, with authors and works varying at the instructor's discretion.

# World Language

## ***Español Para Hispanohablantes I (YR)***

Two semesters, two credits open to freshmen and sophomores.

*Prerequisite: Native speakers with a good understanding of grammar or students who were enrolled in a Spanish immersion school for a minimum of five years.*

This course is designed for students with near native spoken fluency in Spanish. The course will be conducted entirely in Spanish and will include the study of literature and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. The content will focus on grammar instruction to build writing skills and students' understanding of structure and syntax, including spelling and accentuation. Methods will include discussions, student presentations, compositions, and projects.

## ***Español Para Hispanohablantes II (YR)***

Two semesters, two credits open to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

*Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes I.*

This course is designed for students who have completed *Español para Hispanohablantes I*. The course will be conducted entirely in Spanish and will include the study of literature and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will continue to refine their writing skills and understanding of grammar structures and syntax. Methods will include discussions, student presentations, compositions and projects.

## ***Español Para Hispanohablantes III (YR)***

Two semesters, two credits open to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

*Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes II.*

This course is designed for students who have completed *Español para Hispanohablantes II*. The course will be conducted entirely in Spanish and will include the student of literature and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will continue to refine their writing and reading comprehension skills. Students will also continue to expand their vocabulary, as well as their understanding of grammar structures and syntax, including spelling and accentuation. Methods will include discussions, debates, student presentations, music, movies, compositions and projects.

## **Spanish I (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

This first-level Spanish course offers students a balanced approach to language-learning, giving careful attention to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will engage in conversations, express feeling, and exchange opinions on topics such as likes/dislikes, personality, school life, foods, hobbies, community, sports, family, and clothing. Within these topics, students will build an awareness of culture, including attitudes and lifestyles in Spanish-speaking countries. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate technology, music, and videos.

## **Spanish II (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

*Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent.*

This course builds on the fundamentals and skills presented in Spanish I. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and write in the Spanish language. Thematic units presented include the classroom, daily routines, downtown activities, children and play, emergencies, television programs, and cooking. Within these units, students will build an awareness of culture, including attitudes and lifestyles in Spanish-speaking countries. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

# World Language

## **Spanish III (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

*Prerequisite: Spanish II with an average grade of “C” or higher OR*

*Honors Spanish II with an average grade of a “C-”.*

This third-year Spanish course is designed to continue developing the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through conversations, discussions, readings and practical writing activities. This course will refine and introduce new structures in grammar as well as vocabulary. The study of Spanish-speaking people, their customs and cultures includes units on art, health and fitness, and communities and volunteerism. Participation and conversation are integral parts of this course. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

## **Spanish IV (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

*Prerequisite: Spanish III with an average grade of “C” or higher.*

This fourth-year Spanish course is designed to start developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish-speakers and their culture will include units on fashion and the 20<sup>th</sup> century, technology, the environment, human rights, personalities and personality styles, individual and personal relationships, as well as entertainment. Participation and conversation are key components of this course and one main focus will be speaking in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music and movies.

## **Spanish V (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

*Prerequisite: Spanish IV with an average grade of “B-” or higher.*

This fifth-year Spanish course is designed to continue developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish-speakers and their culture will include units on diversity, the culinary arts, our societal issues, the economy, our free time, and 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges and advancements. Participation and conversation are key components of this course and two main focuses will be speaking and writing in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

## ***Honors***

## **Honors Spanish II (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

*Prerequisite: Spanish I with an average grade of “A-” or higher OR*

*Advanced Spanish I with teacher recommendation.*

This second-level Spanish course is fast faced and rigorously builds upon the fundamentals taught in Spanish 1. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and read and write in the Spanish language. Thematic units presented include the classroom, daily routines, downtown activities, children and play, emergencies, television programs, cooking outdoors, making travel plans, tourist activities and behaviors, future plans and professions, environment and green efforts. Students will build an awareness of culture, including attitudes and lifestyles in Spanish-speaking countries within these units. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music and films.

## **Honors Spanish III (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

*Prerequisite: Spanish II with an average grade of “A-” or Honors Spanish II with a “B-” or higher.*

This third-year Spanish course is fast-paced and rigorously builds upon the knowledge and abilities students gained in Spanish II. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and read and write in the Spanish language. This course will refine and introduce new vocabulary and grammar structures. The study of Spanish-speaking people, their customs and cultures includes units on art, health and fitness, communities and volunteerism, pre-Colombian civilizations, Spanish civilization and colonization, and the environment and conversation. Participation and conversation are integral parts of this course. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music and films.

# World Language

## *Advanced Placement*

### **AP French (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

*Prerequisite: French IV or V with an average grade of “B+” or higher.*

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare the student for the Advanced Placement Language Examination. Based on students’ interests we co-create the curriculum studying topics on Francophone history and culture through literature and film. For example, students explore the impact of French colonialism on Algeria by reading *L’Hôte* by Camus and seeing Pontecorvo’s classic film, *La Bataille d’Algers*. Students also study and discuss contemporary culture and issues and research areas of interest. Students review grammar to build their proficiency in the areas of speaking, listening, writing, reading and vocabulary recall.

### **AP Spanish Language and Culture (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Spanish IV or V with an average grade of “B+” or higher.*

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Spanish Language Examination. The study of Spanish-speakers and their culture will include the AP College Board units on families and communities, science and technology, beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, global challenges, and personal and public identities. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the culture(s), incorporate interdisciplinary topics, make comparisons between the native language and target language and between cultures, and use the target language in real-life settings. Students will develop tools of communication for reading and listening to authentic sources in order to promote a deeper understanding of the Spanish language and its many cultures.

### **AP Spanish Literature and Culture (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Spanish IV, V or AP Spanish Language with an average grade of “B+” or higher.*

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Spanish Literature Examination. The study of Spanish-speakers and their culture will include the AP College Board units on societies in contact, gender, time and space, interpersonal and social relationships, duality of being and the enigma of existence, and imagination and literary creation. Students will develop further tools for communication for reading and listening to authentic sources in order to promote a deeper understanding of the Spanish language and its many cultures. This class will explore history, culture, art, and literature through Latin American and Spanish authors, poets, and essayists. Literature in this class covers the Medieval & Golden Age, as well as the 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

## *Internship*

### **Spanish Language Internship Program-SLIP (S1) (S2)**

One or both semesters, one credit per semester open to juniors and seniors.

*Prerequisite: Spanish IV or above, near native Spanish speaking skills, an application, and teacher recommendation. Admissions based on availability of approved positions.*

Earn valuable experience that could lead to your future college/career choice or get a head start on your college and career planning by participating in an intern experience. Students will travel to a local primary immersion school twice a week. Through direct contact in the classroom, students will expand their cultural understanding of Latinos and serve as pronunciation models for K-6 students guiding them in classroom activities. Students must be at least 16 years of age and be able to provide their own transportation to and from the work site. The internship will take place during the school day. Students will check in twice a week with the teacher to discuss progress and complete online requirements. Students will complete quarterly papers as well as a semester service-learning project.

*This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*